

Australian Capital Territory

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1994

MAIN FEATURES

This edition of *ACT Business Indicators* sees the introduction of a table of major economic indicators comparing the ACT with the rest of Australia. Interstate road freight movement has also been included for the first time.

Several indicators in this issue show that the ACT economy continues to show quite strong growth in some sectors.

Notable increases have occurred in the following series:

- Business expectations for sales of goods and services in the ACT have increased in both the short and medium term. June quarter 1994 sales are expected to increase by 1.6 per cent over the March quarter, this compares to the Australian figure of 1.9 per cent. ACT businesses expect to increase sales by 3.7 per cent in the March quarter of 1995 over the previous quarter which compares to the Australian expectation of 3.9 per cent.
- The \$57.4 million of non-residential work carried out during the December quarter 1993 was 7.1 per cent higher than the September quarter figure but 5.6 per cent lower than for the same period in the previous year.
- December quarter 1993 takings from hotels, motels and guest houses in the ACT have increased by 9.9 per cent over the September quarter. This

compares favourably with a national increase of 5.6 per cent.

- Original new motor vehicle registrations in the ACT during February 1994 rose by 11.1 per cent from the previous month. This compares with a national increase of 25.3 per cent for the same period.
- December quarter 1993 original series State final demand at 1989-90 prices increased by 5.5 per cent in the ACT. This compares with the Australian increase of 6.0 per cent.

Other notable movements included:

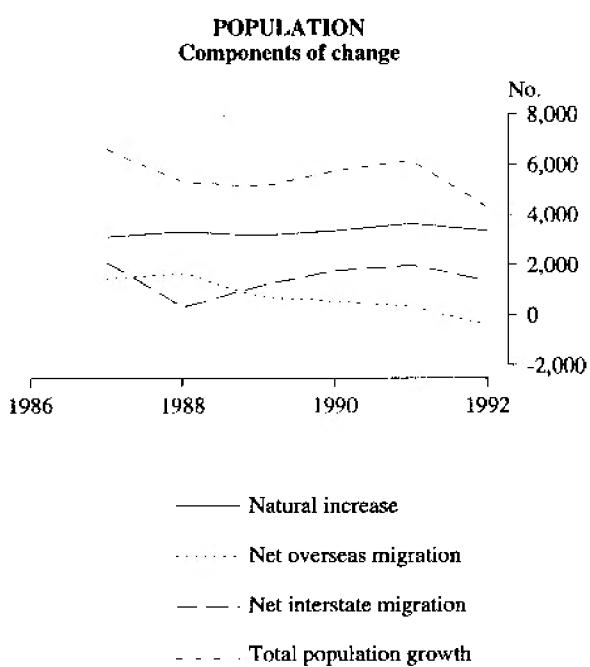
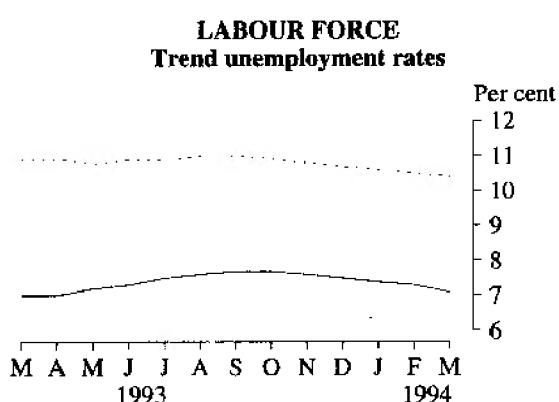
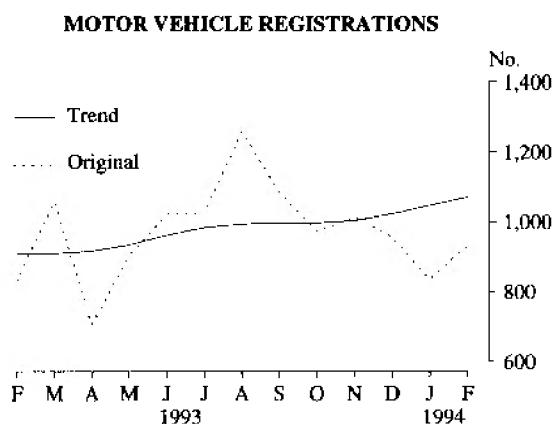
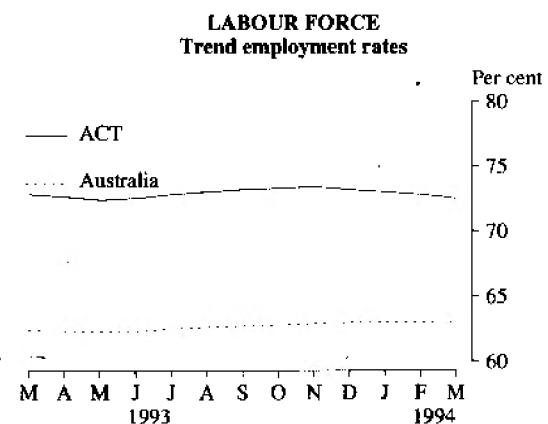
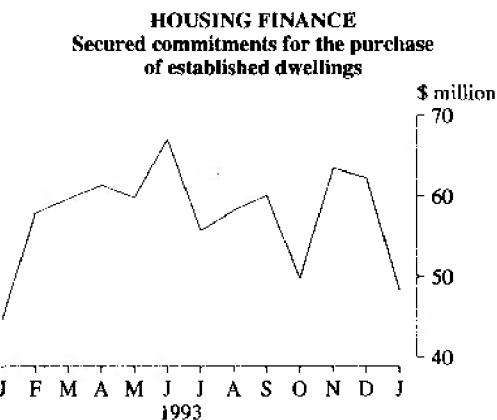
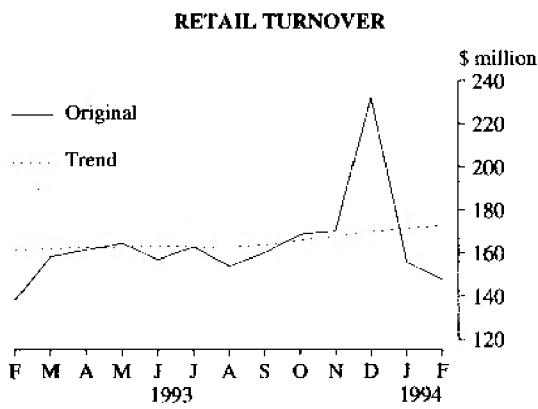
- The number of dwelling units approved in the ACT for the month of April decreased by 64.8 per cent from the previous month. In comparison the number of dwelling units approved in Australia increased by 8.7 per cent for the same period.
- Original estimates of total retail turnover decreased in the ACT by 7.7 per cent. This compares with the national decrease of 6.5 per cent.
- The value of new residential work approved in the ACT declined by 6.5 per cent to \$77.4 million between the November and December quarters of 1993.

DALMA JACOBS
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Emily Hansen on Canberra (06) 207 0105 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
MARCH QUARTER 1994/MARCH QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE**

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Australian Capital Territory</i> | <i>Australia</i> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Short-term | | |
| March 1994 | - 0.4 | - 1.4 |
| June 1994 | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| Medium-term | | |
| December 1994 | 2.8 | 3.1 |
| March 1995 | 3.7 | 3.9 |

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1994

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Unit</i> | <i>Australian Capital Territory</i> | | | <i>Australia</i> | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|--|
| | | <i>Latest figure</i> | <i>Change from previous period (%)</i> | <i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i> | <i>Latest figure</i> | <i>Change from previous period (%)</i> | <i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i> |
| Average weekly earnings, November 93 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Males | \$ | 690.50 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 619.00 | 0.1 | 3.3 |
| Females | \$ | 478.20 | 1.2 | 5.3 | 408.60 | - 0.2 | 3.2 |
| Persons | \$ | 584.40 | 2.4 | 5.6 | 521.50 | 0.2 | 3.5 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Males | \$ | 683.10 | 0.9 | 3.6 | 619.70 | 0.2 | 3.1 |
| Females | \$ | 479.60 | 0.1 | 5.7 | 410.60 | 0.1 | 2.7 |
| Persons | \$ | 581.70 | 0.6 | 4.6 | 522.30 | 0.1 | 3.0 |
| Building approvals, February 94 | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units | no. | 241 | - 64.8 | - 24.2 | 13 884 | 8.7 | 6.4 |
| Value of new residential | \$m | 24.6 | - 53.8 | - 11.2 | 1 181.3 | 8.0 | 8.9 |
| Value of residential alterations and additions | \$m | 4.7 | — | - 9.6 | 173.7 | 19.6 | 11.3 |
| Value of non-residential | \$m | 19.6 | - 79.9 | 102.1 | 781 | 38.0 | 33.5 |
| Value of total building | \$m | 49 | - 68.5 | 15.0 | 2 136 | 18.4 | 17.0 |
| Building commencements, September quarter 93 | | | | | | | |
| New houses | no. | 606 | 5.2 | - 14.3 | 32 525 | 6.5 | 11.4 |
| Value of houses commenced | \$m | 65.4 | 2.0 | - 8.4 | 2 915.6 | 7.4 | 13.1 |
| Value of non-residential building commenced | \$m | 63.3 | - 2.6 | 42.9 | 1 823.9 | - 5.2 | 23.3 |
| Hotels, motels and guest house accommodation, December quarter 93 | | | | | | | |
| Room occupancy rate(a) | % | 67.3 | 8.2 | 8.0 | 55.5 | 1.8 | 7.1 |
| Bed occupancy rate(a) | % | 39.4 | 11.6 | 2.9 | 34.2 | 2.1 | 6.9 |
| Takings from accommodation | \$'000 | 18 263 | 9.9 | 6.9 | 709 542 | 5.6 | 10.0 |
| Housing finance, January 94 | | | | | | | |
| Secured commitments to individuals for | | | | | | | |
| Construction of dwellings | \$m | 9.3 | - 18.4 | 50.0 | 547.1 | - 22.7 | 29.6 |
| Purchase of new dwellings | \$m | 8.5 | - 52.5 | 19.7 | 161.4 | - 20.3 | 45.8 |
| Purchase of established dwellings | \$m | 48.4 | - 22.3 | 8.3 | 2 397 | - 23.3 | 28.9 |
| Total new housing commitments | \$m | 72.4 | - 28.4 | 15.5 | 3 105.4 | - 23.1 | 29.8 |
| Industrial disputes in progress, January 94 | | | | | | | |
| Working days lost | '000 | — | 0.1 | — | 5.3 | 19.1 | 5.7 |
| Days lost per '000 employees (year ended January 94) | no. | 76 | 77 | 20 | 108 | 108 | 158 |
| Interstate road freight movement, December quarter 93 | | | | | | | |
| Originating | '000 tonnes | 4.6 | - 38.1 | 18.0 | 4 658.3 | 4.48 | - 5.9 |
| Receiving | '000 tonnes | 136.1 | 2.6 | - 20.27 | 4 658.3 | 4.48 | - 5.9 |
| Labour force, March 94 p | | | | | | | |
| Job vacancies (February 94) | '000 | 1.5 | 36.4 | 50.0 | 45.9 | 20.2 | 54.0 |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Employed | '000 | 153 | 0.1 | - 3.2 | 7 838.2 | 1.1 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed | '000 | 11.7 | - 27.3 | - 18.8 | 949.2 | - 5.7 | - 3.1 |
| Unemployment rate(a) | % | 7.1 | - 25.3 | - 14.5 | 10.8 | - 6.1 | - 4.4 |
| Participation rate(a) | % | 72.4 | - 2.8 | - 3.6 | 63.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Employed | '000 | 153 | - 0.1 | 1.5 | 7 830.7 | 0.1 | 2.7 |
| Unemployed | '000 | 11.8 | - 1.7 | 4.4 | 906.1 | - 0.9 | - 3.0 |
| Unemployment rate(a) | % | 7.1 | - 2.7 | 1.4 | 10.4 | - 1.0 | - 4.6 |
| Participation rate(a) | % | 72.5 | - 0.4 | - 0.4 | 62.9 | - 0.2 | 0.8 |
| New motor vehicle registrations, February 94 p | | | | | | | |
| Motor vehicles (original) | no. | 931 | 11.1 | 12.0 | 45 946 | 25.3 | 15.2 |
| Motor vehicles (trend) | no. | 1 070 | 2.3 | 17.7 | 49 009 | 1.4 | 9.4 |

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1994 — *continued*

| Indicator | Unit | Australian Capital Territory | | | Australia | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | Latest figure | Change from previous period (%) | Change from same period previous year (%) | Latest figure | Change from previous period (%) | Change from same period previous year (%) |
| | | | (%) | (%) | | (%) | (%) |
| Population, September quarter 93 | '000 | 299 | — | 1.3 | 17 712.7 | 0.3 | 1.1 |
| Natural increase | no. | 795 | -7.0 | -5.5 | 32.1 | -9.1 | -0.9 |
| Net migration | no. | 79 | -121.5 | -154.1 | 17.2 | -2 011.1 | 55.0 |
| <i>Total increase</i> | no. | 877 | 57.7 | 96.2 | 186.7 | 4.4 | 1.2 |
| Prices | | | | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index, All groups (Dec. 93) | (1989-90=100.0) | 111.3 | 0.3 | 2.1 | 110.0 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Established house price index (Sept. 93) | (1989-90=100.0) | 133.4 | -0.3 | 0.4 | 107.4 | 0.1 | 2.7 |
| Price index of house building materials (Jan. 94) | (1985-86=100.0) | 150.7 | 0.2 | 5.8 | 152.3 | 0.3 | 5.5 |
| Retail turnover, February 94 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | \$m | 50.3 | -4.2 | 9.6 | 2 358.5 | -3.3 | 4.7 |
| Department and general stores | \$m | 17.2 | -8.5 | 1.8 | 657.9 | -10.9 | 3.3 |
| Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | \$m | 9.3 | -7.9 | 6.9 | 941.8 | -10.6 | 9.5 |
| All other stores | \$m | 71.4 | -4.2 | 6.6 | 3 530.7 | -6.7 | 5.1 |
| <i>Total</i> | \$m | 148.2 | -4.9 | 7.0 | 7 488.9 | -6.6 | 5.4 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | \$m | 54.1 | 0.7 | 8.9 | 2 515.8 | 0.2 | 4.4 |
| Department and general stores | \$m | 23 | — | -0.4 | 895.8 | 0.2 | 1.1 |
| Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | \$m | 10.9 | -0.9 | -0.9 | 1 035.6 | 0.3 | 8.3 |
| All other stores | \$m | 85.2 | 1.2 | 9.7 | 4 027.4 | 0.5 | 5.6 |
| <i>Total</i> | \$m | 173.2 | 0.8 | 7.2 | 8 474.6 | 0.4 | 5.1 |
| State accounts, December quarter 93 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at current prices | \$m | 2 453 | 2.5 | 8.1 | 114 399 | 10.1 | 6.7 |
| State final demand at average 1989-90 prices | \$m | 3 037 | 5.2 | 2.7 | 99 997 | 6.0 | 1.7 |
| Private final consumption expenditure | \$m | 1 406 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 70 097 | 7.7 | 5.4 |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components | \$m | 285 | 5.2 | -12.0 | 16 449 | 8.0 | -2.1 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at current prices | \$m | 2 322 | 0.7 | 6.9 | 106 555 | 1.3 | 5.9 |
| State final demand at average 1989-90 prices | \$m | 2 935 | -0.1 | 1.8 | 95 206 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| Private final consumption expenditure | \$m | 1 334 | 1.9 | 6.0 | 66 152 | 1.4 | 4.7 |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components | \$m | 271 | -4.6 | -7.2 | 15 357 | 1.5 | 2.8 |

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5250.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6403.0, 6408.0, 8501.0, 8635.0, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0, 9303.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

| Indicator | '000 | Latest period | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | Aust. | ACT |
|---|------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | | Mar. 94 | 1 955.9 | 1 408.3 | 637.5 | 782.3 | 195.2 | 73 | 7 838.2 | 153 |
| Employed persons | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index: All groups (1989-90 =100.0) | | Dec. qtr 93 | 108.8 | 110.8 | 110.2 | 112.8 | 108.5 | 111.6 | 111.7 | 110 | 111.3 |
| Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time | \$ | Nov. qtr 93 | 614.50 | 600.50 | 577.50 | 599.40 | 605.90 | 588.30 | 634.30 | 604.20 | 689.10 |
| Retail turnover (trend) | \$m | Feb. 94 | 2 977.9 | 1 994.4 | 1 503.4 | 655.8 | 875.6 | 216.3 | n.p. | 8 474.6 | 173.2 |
| New motor vehicle registration | no. | Feb. 94 | 16 295 | 10 699 | 8 456 | 3 186 | 5 016 | 929 | 434 | 45 946 | 931 |
| Dwelling units approved | no. | Feb. 94 | 3 535 | 2 716 | 3 953 | 851 | 2 100 | 344 | 144 | 13 884 | 241 |
| Value of non-residential building approved | \$m | Feb. 94 | 199.7 | 363.4 | 105.1 | 40 | 42.7 | 6.2 | 4.4 | 781 | 19.6 |
| Value of all buildings approved | \$m | Feb. 94 | 606.5 | 645.1 | 456.3 | 108.2 | 218.4 | 32.7 | 19.9 | 2 136 | 49 |
| Value of engineering construction work done | \$m | Sept. qtr 93 | 891.1 | 479.7 | 728.9 | 170.4 | 420.8 | 57.3 | 51.2 | 2 843 | 43.7 |
| Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels, etc. | % | Dec. qtr 93 | 55.1 | 47.6 | 62.6 | 50.3 | 57.4 | 54 | 50.9 | 55.5 | 67.3 |

Figures in the above table are either preliminary, final, or revisions to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data; n.p. — not available for publication.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

